



### Advanced Practice Questions and Answers: CRNP, CNM, CRNA, and CNS

QUESTION	ANSWER
Will ABN receive notification when I receive or renew my national certification?	<p>No. Notification of your continued national certification is not automatic. Visit the website for your <a href="#">certifying agency</a> and follow their instructions to request that written verification be sent directly to the ABN.</p> <p>Send to <a href="mailto:melissa.curtis@abn.alabama.gov">melissa.curtis@abn.alabama.gov</a> by email, or by US Postal Service (USPS) at <b>PO BOX 303900, Montgomery, AL 36130-3900.</b></p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> The report from the <a href="#">certifying agency</a> is required as primary source verification and may require several days for delivery by USPS to ABN. Personal copies are not accepted documentation, and do not meet the Alabama Board of Nursing requirement for <u>primary source verification</u>.</p>
When does my Advanced Practice approval lapse or expire?	Advanced Practice approval from the ABN will expire with your RN license (example: 12/31/2016) or on the date of expiration of your national specialty certification, whichever <u>comes first</u> .
What should I do if my RN license lapses?	<b>Immediately cease and desist from all activities as an RN and an Advanced Practice Nurse.</b> You must reinstate the RN license. Reinstatement of APN approval is a two-step process AFTER the RN license is Active. See next question for the two steps.

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	<p>Unauthorized practice as an Advanced Practice Nurse is subject to disciplinary action against your Registered Nurse license. This may include limitations on future authorizations for Advanced Practice Nursing.</p>
<p>What should I do if my Advanced Practice certification expires?</p>	<p>Reinstatement of APN approval is a two-step process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Submit the “Application for Reinstatement of Lapsed Approval” for APN (this is located on the ABN website at <a href="http://www.abn.alabama.gov">www.abn.alabama.gov</a> under the “Reinstatement” tab).</li> <li>2. Submit “Add A New Collaboration” on-line.</li> </ol> <p>Unauthorized practice as an Advanced Practice Nurse is subject to disciplinary action against your Registered Nurse license. This may include limitations on future authorizations for Advanced Practice Nursing.</p>
<p>How do I change or update my address?</p>	<p>This information may be updated in the MyProfile section of the ABN website at <a href="http://www.abn.alabama.gov">www.abn.alabama.gov</a>.</p>
<p>What if I fail the certification exam in my specialty of practice?</p>	<p>You must cease and desist from working as an Advanced Practice Nurse immediately and notify the ABN.</p> <p>Upon successful certification in your Advanced Practice specialty, you may re-apply to ABN for approval of Advanced Practice Nursing. Do not practice in your APN specialty until you receive notice of approval from the Alabama Board of Nursing</p>
<p>What does “provisional approval” mean?</p>	<p><b><u>Provisional Approval</u></b> - Your approval is provisional pending receipt of the results of your <u>first</u> writing of the certification examination, as stipulated in ABN <b><u>Administrative Code for CRNP, CNM, and CRNA</u></b>. If you request and receive Provisional approval, you may practice only with the on-site supervision of an Advanced Practice Nurse with the same specialty or a qualified physician.</p>

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What is the scope of practice for an Advanced Practice Nurse?	<p>You must practice in accordance with national standards and functions identified by the appropriate specialty certifying agency, as recognized by the Board of Nursing and as consistent with Alabama law.</p> <p>CRNPs and CNMs are eligible for prescriptive authority. Standard Practice Protocols for CRNPs and CNMs are available on the ABN website for reference.</p>
Can an Advanced Practice Nurse withhold life-saving treatment (Do not resuscitate order)?	<b>No.</b> Based on Alabama Natural Death Act 22-8A-4 (d) and 22-8A-11 (a), only a physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy in Alabama may activate an advanced directive, or make a determination, in the absence of a written advanced directive, to withhold treatment.
Which Advanced Practice Certification exams are recognized by the ABN?	<p>The links provided below will take you to the approved certification listing and National Certification contact information:</p> <p>ABN Recognized APN Certification Exams Need to add the listing.</p>
<b>CRNA/CNS Information</b>	
Do you accept CRNA endorsement from out of state?	<p>Alabama does not “endorse” AP status from another state.</p> <p>You must complete the RN endorsement process and obtain your Alabama RN license first, then submit a CRNA application.</p>
Does a CRNA or CNS have to be in collaborative practice with a physician?	No. Only CRNPs and CNMs are subject to the collaborative practice requirements.
<b>CRNP/CNM Information</b>	
How can I or my employer view my Collaborative Practice Detail information?	<p>Login to the AP Individual Profile at <a href="https://abn.alabama.gov/abnonline/viewapnprofile_login.aspx">https://abn.alabama.gov/abnonline/viewapnprofile_login.aspx</a> to view collaborative practice information. From this site, you may print the collaborating physician detail on ABN letterhead.</p>
How do I terminate a collaborative practice agreement?	Submit an online “Terminate an Existing Collaboration” application. Indicate the final date of practice with the physician listed in the online profile. The application is available under the Advanced Practice tab on the ABN website.

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How do I add a new collaborative practice?	. Submit an online “Add A New Collaboration” application. The application is available under the Advanced Practice tab on the ABN website.
Will my collaborating physician need to notify anyone of our agreement?	<p>Yes. The collaborating physician is required to notify the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners (<b>ABME</b>) of the commencement or termination of collaborative practice with a CRNP or CNM. The Notice of Termination is to be submitted by the physician to the ABME within 14 days of the date of termination of the collaboration.</p> <p>The ABN notifies the BME of the CRNP/CNM termination immediately upon processing the online Termination application.</p>
How will I know when I have been approved to practice as a CRNP or CNM?	<p>A Notice of Approval for Practice will be emailed to the applicant’s email <b>address on file</b> with the ABN.</p> <p>Refer to MyProfile on the ABN website, <a href="http://www.abn.alabama.gov">www.abn.alabama.gov</a>, to review current approvals(s) with the Board.</p>
How do I request additional duties for my collaborative practice?	<p>Approved additional duties specific to certification specialty may be selected from the online “Modify An Existing Application” or “Add a New Collaborative Application.” A drop-down menu will give you a list of skills/procedures previously determined by the ABN and ABME as permissible for the specific certification specialty.</p> <p>Note: You must wait until you are approved to perform these skills/procedures.</p>
How do I request a skill/procedure not available on the Standard Protocol or drop-down menu?	<p>A CNRP or CMN may request additional <b>NEW</b> skills/procedures approval, which will be submitted to the Joint Committee for consideration.</p> <p>If it is a <b>new</b> skill/procedure, you and the collaborating physician must complete and submit the “<b>New Skill Request</b>” (<b>template</b>) in addition to “Modify An Existing Application” online.</p> <p>Do not begin performing the new/additional skill/procedure until you receive approval from the Alabama Board of Nursing and the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners.</p>
Am I approved to do all the skills/procedures listed on my certification specific Standard Protocol?	Yes. You are approved to do all the procedures listed on the Standard Protocol, if it is consistent with your practice site, <u>your collaborating physician agrees</u> , and you have the knowledge and technical ability. An example of a protocol agreement (you may use for your records only) is available on the ABN website under the “Advanced Practice” tab.

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	<p>The collaborating physician must be qualified to provide medical direction for the procedure. The CRNP or CNM who lacks current proficiency is responsible and accountable for obtaining sufficient guidance, education, and supervision for safe practice prior to performing a new procedure.</p>
<p>Do I have to request the Skills/Procedures on the Standard Protocol for my specialty certification?</p>	<p>No. You are approved to do all the procedures listed on the Standard Protocol, if it is consistent with your practice site, <u>your collaborating physician agrees</u>, and you have the knowledge and technical ability.</p>
<p>Am I approved to do all the skills listed on the Specialty Protocol I was approved for?</p>	<p>The Specialty protocol is a set of procedures. After receiving approval for the Specialty protocol, you may perform any of the listed procedures <u>if you and the physician agree</u> they are appropriate to your collaboration, the patient population, and the practice site where you expect to perform the procedure.</p> <p>Please note: Some specialty protocols require specific documentation prior to approval and certain annual numbers of set procedures to demonstrate on-going competency.</p>
<p>How do I apply for certain drug classifications on the Specialty Formulary?</p>	<p>On the online "Modify an Existing Application" or New Application (if indicated) select "Specialty Formulary," then select each category that you are requesting approval to prescribe.</p> <p>Please note: You must select each individual category for which you are requesting approval to prescribe. You <u>are not approved</u> to do everything listed unless you have requested these categories and received approval.</p>
<p>If I currently have approval for a specific Specialty Protocol and change collaborative practice physicians, will I need to request approval again for the same protocol?</p>	<p>Yes. The specialty protocol must be requested under the "Add a New Collaborative Practice" Application. The new collaborating physician must approve the skill/procedure requested.</p>
<p>What are the requirements for performing physical examinations and medical reports for the DOT and to register with the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME)?</p>	<p>CRNPs are eligible to become Certified Medical Examiners.</p> <p>Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has established the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME), requiring all healthcare professionals who conduct physical examinations for interstate commercial motor vehicle drivers to:</p>

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	<p>1. <b>Complete training</b> offered by a nationally recognized organization that meets FMCSA standards, e.g., MASA.</p> <p>2. <b>Pass a certification exam</b> to conduct physical examinations for drivers who wish to obtain a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) and register on the NRCME.</p> <p>Beginning May 21, 2014, commercial drivers must receive Department of Transportation (DOT) physicals and medical reports from DOT Certified Medical Examiners listed on the National Registry.</p> <p><b>MASA now offers online FMCSA DOT Medical Examiner Certification Training. Information is available on the MASA link provided below:</b>  <a href="http://www.masalink.org/default.aspx">http://www.masalink.org/default.aspx</a></p>
As a CRNP or CNM, how much time do I have to practice together with my collaborating physician?	On-site time with the collaborating physician is required for (a) CRNPs and CNMs with fewer than two years (4,000 hours) collaborative practice experience and (b) CRNPs/CNMs with qualifying experience who are moving to an unfamiliar medical specialty. They must be on-site with the physician for 10% of scheduled hours while accumulating two years (4,000 hours) of practice. In other words, if the experienced CRNP enters a new collaboration and does not have clinical experience consistent with the physician’s clinical specialty, the “experience clock” resets to zero. Refer to ABN <u>Administrative Code</u> § 610-X-5-.09 (CRNP) or 610-X-5-.20 (CNM) for details.
Can the 10% of scheduled hours be worked with the collaborating physician or covering physician?	Time on-site with the covering physician counts toward the 10% accumulation. However, the covering physician cannot provide all of the on-site time. The collaborating physician still has primary responsibility for collaboration and medical direction with the CRNP.
What do “Medical Oversight,” “Readily Available,” and “Direct Medical Intervention” mean?	<p><b>A) Medical Oversight includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concurrent and ongoing collaboration between a physician and CRNP/CNM</li> <li>• <b><u>Written documentation</u></b> of time together in an approved practice site</li> <li>• Includes, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct consultation &amp; patient care</li> <li>• Discussion of disease processes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of records</li> <li>• Activities to promote positive patient outcomes</li> </ul> <p><b>B) Readily Available:</b> Response by the collaborating or covering physician by telephone, telecommunication, or radio for consultation, referral, or <b>direct medical intervention</b>.</p> <p><b>C) Direct Medical Intervention:</b> The definition of “direct medical intervention” requires the physical presence of a physician to attend to the needs of the patient as defined in the collaborative practice protocol, as dictated by the needs of the patient, and based on usual and customary standards of medical practice.</p>
What is the maximum aged patient for which a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner can provide care?	The maximum age for pediatric patient is 21 years old, as stated in the Standards of Practice of the national certifying organizations. In some situations, the age may be irrelevant and care is determined by the diagnosis (for example, cystic fibrosis patients may be provided care by a PNP long past the 21 years of age).
What is the minimum aged patient for Adult Nurse Practitioner?	Adult Nurse Practitioners may treat “young adults.” The standards adopted by NP education and <a href="#">certifying agencies</a> do not state a minimum age. The ABN recognizes these national standards.
Can a CRNP be a First Assistant in Surgery?	A First Assistant in surgery does not require APN status. See ABN <a href="#">Administrative Code</a> Chapter 610-X-7 for RN practice standards.
What is included in Quality Monitoring for CRNP and CNM in collaborative practice?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Documented</u></b> evaluation of the CRNP/CNM’s clinical practice.</li> <li>• Use of established outcome indicators.</li> <li>• Review of the specified percentage of charts as indicated in the QA plan.</li> <li>• Include a summary of findings – reviewed by physician and nurse practitioner.</li> <li>• Recommendations for change, if indicated.</li> </ul>
What constitutes a Practice Site?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Principal Practice Site</u></b> – the main location at which the collaborating physician is engaged in the practice of medicine.</li> <li>• <b><u>Remote Site</u></b> – any approved collaborative practice site without a physician on-site, excluding the physician’s principal practice site and other exempt sites.</li> </ul>

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Why can't a CRNP sign a patient's application for Disability Access Parking Privileges?	Alabama law, through the Alabama Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division, requires a licensed physician to determine long-term disability in order for an individual to acquire Disability Access placards and/or license plates.
Whom do I contact if I have questions related to the approval process for the Qualified Alabama Controlled Substance Certificate (QACSC) classes and process?	<p>The QACSC certificate and required educational classes are offered solely by the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners (ABME). You may contact any of the individuals listed below:</p> <p><b><u>Medical Association of State of Alabama (MASA)</u></b>  Judy DeBray  Director of Education  (334) 954-2535 Direct  (334) 954-2500 Main  (800) 239-6272</p> <p>Sandra Fuqua  Coordinator of CME Programs  (334) 954-2579  (800) 239-6272  (334) 269-5200 fax  <a href="http://www.masalink.org">www.masalink.org</a></p> <p><b><u>ALABAMA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS</u></b></p> <p>Pat Ward, RN  Nurse Inspector  Phone 334-242-4116 (direct)  Fax: 334-240-3037 (direct)</p> <p><b>ABME Website Information:</b>  <b>You must go to the ABME website to access the QACSC information links available to you.</b></p> <p><b>QACSC Applications</b></p>



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	<a href="http://www.albme.org/qacscupdate.html">http://www.albme.org/qacscupdate.html</a>
<p>Where can I find detailed information related to the QACSC and the application process?</p>	<p>The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners (ABME) has developed a Frequent Question and Answer page on their website that will help you navigate the process. The link is provided below:</p> <p><a href="http://www.albme.org/faq-qacscnp.html">http://www.albme.org/faq-qacscnp.html</a></p> <p>In addition, the application information is available at the ABME website. The link is provided below:</p> <p><a href="http://www.albme.org/qacscupdate.html">http://www.albme.org/qacscupdate.html</a></p>
<p>Why do I need to know how many other Advanced Practice Nurses and/or physician assistants are in collaboration with my collaborating physician?</p>	<p>The rules impose a limit on the number of individuals with whom a physician may collaborate. “The physician shall not collaborate with or supervise any combination of certified registered nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives and/or assistants to physicians exceeding one hundred and sixty ( 160 ) hours per week ( four full-time equivalent positions) unless an exemption is granted under Rule 610-X-5-.05. “One full-time equivalent” (FTE) is herein described as a person/persons collectively working forty hours a week, excluding time on call.</p> <p>(ABN Administrative Code § 610-X-5-.05 )</p>
<p>What if I am only teaching NP students? Do I have to have a collaborative practice?</p>	<p>No. The Board’s rules allow for a “Faculty Only” designation that does not require a collaborative practice. A letter from the Dean of the School or College of Nursing is required prior to designation as “Faculty Only.”</p>
<p>What if I work as a CRNP/CNM in a federal facility with a physician who is not licensed in Alabama?</p>	<p>The Board’s rules allow for a designation as “Federal Only,” so that you may practice with a physician licensed to practice in another state. As long as you are working in a federal facility, you may practice with the identified collaborating and covering physicians.</p>
<p>Can the Pharmacy education hours taken with the ABME course for the Qualified Alabama Controlled Substance Certificate (QACSC) count toward my RN renewal for the Pharmacology CE requirements?</p>	<p>Yes. The hours awarded for the ABME QACSC course will count toward the Pharmacology hours needed for renewal of the RN license and APN approval.</p>

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What documentation and fees are required by ABME for my collaborative practice?	<p>The ABME requires that collaborating physician(s) complete an ABME Commencement form, which specifies the fee and requires the signature of the physician for any collaborative practice prior to approval. The form is available on the ABME website. The link is provided below:</p> <p><a href="http://www.albme.org/Documents/Forms/collpraccommform.pdf">http://www.albme.org/Documents/Forms/collpraccommform.pdf</a></p>